



**Meeting with the Wisconsin Airport Management Association
Wednesday, August 25, 2004, 1:00-2:00 pm**

People in attendance

Wisconsin Airport Management Association members

Tony Yaron, Central Wisconsin Airport
Dan Wruck, La Crosse Municipal Airport
Pete Drahn, WAMA Executive Director
Rob Hom, John F. Kennedy Memorial Airport
Dave Jensen, Dane County Regional Airport
James Hansford, Central Wisconsin Airport

Wisconsin DOT

Casey Newman
Dan Thyes

1. Overview of WisDOT's meeting purpose and WisDOT's long-range plan, Connections 2030: The meeting began at 1:00. Casey Newman, WisDOT, gave an overview of Connections 2030. WisDOT is seeking input on transportation planning issues from stakeholder groups. Connections 2030 is scheduled to be completed in 2006.
2. Gathering of input from the Wisconsin Airport Management Association: Discussion focused on the following issues:
 - a. Funding of Air Transportation Systems
The Wisconsin Airport Management Association would like to see increases in funding for airports as their needs continue to grow. Their funding is user fee based. However, since the legislature substantially reduced the amount of aviation taxes going into the DOT fund a few years ago, they would like to see money come out of General Purpose Revenue (aviation related sales taxes, etc.) used for aviation purposes. They are opposed to continued "raids" on the segregated transportation fund. They encourage WisDOT to use the recommendations of the Airport Financing Committee as a guide. Also, unfunded mandates are hurting airports. Federal funding is not completely covering security costs.
 - b. Role of the WisDOT Bureau of Aeronautics
The Airport Association is concerned that the role of the Bureau of Aeronautics may change as a part of the WisDOT reorganization. The Association is pleased with the current relationship between the airports and WisDOT, and would like to see it continue. If power is extracted from the Bureau of Aeronautics, the local communities and the industry will suffer. If there are going to be any changes, the Association would like to be involved.
 - c. Air Traffic Control
The Association noted that there are air traffic control issues adversely affecting airline flights from Wisconsin airports primarily to Chicago O'Hare and Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport

They would like to see the Federal Aviation Administration and the Bureau of Aeronautics stay involved with traffic control issues as well as community access.

d. Other Aviation Issues

The Airport Managers said that light jets will become a factor in the next few years. Airports may need to make changes to accommodate them. Airports need special navigation tools and approaches to accommodate jets, no matter what the size. If these types of jets become common in the business community, many smaller airports in the state may need upgrades to accommodate their use. Regions served by airports unable to accommodate these jets may suffer economically.